

Historic, archived document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

ADVERTISER FARM AND HOME HOUR

WRITER

PROGRAM TITLE WPCLE BARK'S FOREST HANDS EPISODE NO. OK

CHICAGO OUTLET WMAQ BLUE

(12:15)
TIME(MAY 19 1939)
DATE(FRIDAY)
DAY

PRODUCTION

ANNOUNCER

ENGINEER

REMARKS



ANNOUNCER: Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers.

SUBJECT: Quarter, Ranger's Room.

ANNOUNCER: The United States was among the first of all countries in the world to undertake scientific research on the grazing of rangeland. This work of the United States Forest Service grew out of the widespread use of western National Forest ranges by domestic livestock. It was undertaken because the range lands were necessarily one of the important parts of many of our forests. Because they were being depleted by misuse and because they are a vital factor in increased production of food and forest products, range research has resulted in the development of many improved practices in range management and in the accumulation of much useful knowledge of the proper use of different types of land. Continued scientific research in range conservation is needed to provide complete and exact information which can be put to general practical use.

Last week on the Pine Cone National Forest we heard the story of a feud started between two winners, Jess Palmer and Lee Lewis. Jess made a deal with the Davis & Rand to take up a grazing lease. Lee had accidentally allowed to lapse for a few days. A bitter argument ensued, and Lee threatened Jess for double crossing him. The next day Jess saw Lee buying a load of Chile peppers at a little store of his. Jess suspected that it was being ordered to poison his enemy. He asked the storekeeper to give him a box of 30-30 rifle shells. Today when he arrived at the Pine Cone Ranger Station, the Ranger Jim Hall and Assistant Ranger Fred Quinn in the office.

1 JERRY: (FADING IN) It's almost ten o'clock, Jim. Do you think
2 Jess will show up?
3 JIM: He said he was going to stop at the store first, and come
4 by here on his way home.
5 JERRY: He was kidding, was he? When you called him at the house this
6 morning, wasn't he?
7 JIM: You can't blame him — I don't — I was here last night.
8 JERRY: That makes about forty he lost altogether within a week —
9 Do you think Sam Grady had anything —
10 LOOKING ON DOOR
11 JIM: (FADING) There's Jess now.
12 DOOR OPENS
13 JESS: (OFF) Hello, Jim.
14 JIM: Come in, Jess. Hope it wasn't any trouble to you to stop
15 here.
16 JESS: (FADING IN) Nope. I don't mind.
17 DOOR CLOSING
18 JERRY: Hello, Jess. Won't you sit down?
19 JESS: Can't stay long. What's up, Jim?
20 JIM: (FADING IN) Jess, I'm mighty sorry to hear about you losing
21 those sheep.
22 JESS: I've lost close to forty head in the last ten days.
23 JIM: Where did you lose them? The range?
24 JESS: On my own place.
25

1 JESS: Did you lose any on the range you leased on New Mexico
2 range last week?

3 JESS: I haven't taken any sheep over there yet. But I'm going
4 to drive him over there pretty soon. If I've got my sheep
5 left to drive by that time.

6 JIM: Yeah, I told you that range of yours was in bad condition
7 last summer. It's been pretty badly overgrazed.

8 JESS: I know it ain't no good.

9 JIM: Sometimes when range gets in poor condition, and the
10 plants ain't given a chance to get started again, you know
11 some plants or weeds start growing that are poisonous to
12 your stock. That's not always the case, but it's more
13 likely to happen when the range is overgrazed than at any
14 other time. Now if you see

15 JESS: Listen Jim, you heard what Ler Brady told me in 1931. I
16 everybody down at Andy Goodman's store last Saturday night
17 JIM: Yes.

18 JESS: He said he'd make me sorry I ever made a deal with the
19 Double E for their grazing land. And this week he's
20 bought ten sacks of saltpeter from Goodman.

21 JIM: What does that prove? Lots of farmers around here use
22 Chile saltpeter for fertilizer.

23 JESS: It's a poison to sheep if they get into it.

24 JIM: Not unless they get a pretty fair dose of it.

25

1. If it was out on the range when they were there, it was
2. good for it. It was a good thing they got
3. enough to kill her.
4. JIM: I mean they would have you found any evidence on
5. your range?
6. JIM: No, but I'll run across some more soon -- or someone
7. getting it done. And when I do, I'm gonna settle the
8. deal right in the spot.
9. JIM: Now, you're out of your head, talking like that. Don't
10. hold a gun against me, but you wouldn't kill off your
11. sheep.
12. JIM: If we didn't we'd have plenty of chance to prove it.
13. JIM: Why, Gosh, there hasn't anything like that happened around
14. here for over twenty years. Now listen to me --
15. JIM: Jim, somebody's gonna be around in a hurry. And as far as I know, that
16. somebody's Doc Arden.
17. JIM: Now hold on, Jim. I'd be willing to stake anything I got
18. that your sheep did for some good money. I mean
19. that's growing on your own range.
20. JIM: There ain't nothing on my range but some larkspur
21. and I ain't got the sheep out into it now.
22. JIM: There may be something for you to know about. Says you
23. had any of those sheep examined?
24. JIM: Why wouldn't I? I got all the evidence I need.

- 1741 Jess, will you give us a couple of days to look over the
range to see if I can find any more killing your money?
- 1742 Add by that this word of me will be answered. The game
went up Lee Grady right now and have it on.
- 1743 Look here, Jess, if you'll give us till tonight, I think
I can show you what's happened to your money. If you go
looking for Grady you're bound to find up to 100000.
Will you go back home now and give us 'till tonight? I
look over your range?
- 1744 All right, Jim, I'll do it. But I'm telling you this
if I catch Lee Grady on my place today, on any other day,
there'll be trouble, and I mean it.
- 1745 We'll be out in your place in about a day.
- 1746 OK, I'll be out.
- 1747 Well, here we are, now. Jess had been grazing his horses
in this valley as long as I've known him. — Now, a few
times?
- 1748 About once.
- 1749 We've gotta' started again? I figured on. We'll have to
work fast if we're going to cover this range.
- 1750 There's Jess got his hand now?
- 1751 Yes, what he said, that was up the valley I looked at
this. We'll work that way.
- 1752 You can see where they've been grazing along here.
- 1753 I should say you can — See how close to the ground all
these plants have been grazed.

1. JERRY: They look pretty sick.

2. JIM: Good conditions for any poisonous plants to show up

3. plainer. Well, let's go, Jerry. (FADING) We'll spread

4. out about two or three hundred yards apart and --

5. MUSIC UP AND OUT

6. (FADE IN BLEATING OF SHEEP IN DISTANCE)

7. JERRY: (FADING IN) Jim it looks to me like we're on the losing

8. end of this proposition

9. JIM: I wish we had more time ---

10. JERRY: It's gettin' late.

11. JIM: Yeah, the wind's died down

12. JERRY: It'll be dark before long

13. JIM: Have you looked carefully as you came up the valley?

14. JERRY: I sure have, Jim

15. JIM: It's too easy to overlook some of the smaller plants,

16. especially after the sheep have already grazed them so

17. close-

18. JERRY: I know, Jim. And I was more careful than ever when we came

19. past the sheep back there

20. JIM: But doggone it, there must be something we've missed.

21. And we've got to find it.

22. JERRY: Do you think Jess will go after Lew Grady like he said?

23. JIM: I'm afraid so. Jess means business. As long as he thinks

24. Lew poisoned his sheep he'll be out to get even.

25. JERRY: He didn't act like he was foolin' any this morning,

1 JIM Well, there's only one thing left for us to do —
2 JERRY What's that, Jim?
3 JIM See those draws up there along near the top of the ridge?
4 There's one a little above where the sheep are now.
5 JERRY I see. They graze in there quite a lot don't they?
6 JIM Yes. Now maybe if we crawled through a couple of those
7 places —
8 JERRY Crawled?
9 JIM Yes on our hands and knees —
10 JERRY What for?
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

1. JIM: So we'd be sure not to miss even the smallest plants --

2. JERRY: But if the plants aren't big enough for us to see, there

3. surely wouldn't be enough of 'em to kill off any sheep.

4. JIM: You can't tell. With feed so scarce on this range, the sheep

5. would get it even if it was flush with the ground.

6. JERRY: Yeah, they would.

7. JIM: Let's go up there above where the sheep are grazing.

8. (FADING) You can see several of those draws along --

9. MUSIC UP AND OUT

10. JERRY: Look at my britches, Jim. Both knees have got holes in

11. 'em now -- Man, that's tough work, crawlin' around like

12. a pig in a pen.

13. JIM: That's only the second draw we've gone through. There's

14. several of 'em beyond here.

15. JERRY: We couldn't see much now, Jim, even if we did crawl.

16. JIM: I reckon we couldn't.

17. JERRY: Jim, I hate to say it, but it looks to me like we been

18. barkin' up the wrong tree.

19. JIM: I don't see how we could have missed anything. We've

20. covered practically every part of the range where the

21. sheep have been grazing last week ---

22. JERRY: We really have covered it.

63

64

65

JESS: But there must be something here. It's possible Lee Grady didn't poison those sheep. And we haven't run across a trace of anything that even looked like saltpeter.

JERRY: It's a fact, we haven't

JIM: If there wasn't so much involved in this situation, I wouldn't put so much store by it. But it's a chance for us to keep a couple of our neighbors from getting into trouble. And, besides that, it's a chance for us to show some of these fellows what bad grazing practices will do to their range and their stock.

JERRY: I know how you feel about it, Jim.

JIM: Well -- if we're licked, I reckon there's nothing we can do about it now -- Let's go, son.

JERRY: All right.

JIM: We can go along the ridge here toward Jess' ranch.

JERRY: We might see something in those other draws as we go past 'em.

JIM: It won't do any harm to keep lookin' as long as there's a speck of light left.

JERRY: I wonder if Jess has been --

CRACK OF RIFLE AND WHINE OF BULLET

JERRY: WHAT the deuce?

JIM: H-m-m That was pretty close.

JERRY: Where'd it come from, Jim?

1. JIM: I don't know. Hold it 'till we see.

2. JERRY: What would anybody be shootin' at us for?

3. JIM: I reckon --

4. CRACK OF RIFLE AND SHINE OF BULLET

5. JIM: Get behind these rocks, Jerry. It came from the draw up
6. ahead of us. I think I saw the fire from the rifle that
7. time.

8. JESS: (OFF) Come on outa there, you. It ain't gonna do you no
9. good to try to git away

10. JERRY: That sounds like Jess

11. JIM: It is (CALLING) Hey, Jess. It's Jim Robbins

12. JESS: (OFF) What's that?

13. JIM: It's Jim Robbins and Jerry

14. JESS: Come on out, Jim. I didn't know it was you.

15. JERRY: Gee, that was too close for comfort.

16. JIM: (FADING) Come on. Let's go over where Jess is.

17. PAUSE

18. JERRY: (FADING IN) What's all the shootin' about, Jess?

19. JESS: Golly, I'm sorry, Jim. I didn't know it was you fellas.

20. JIM: (FADING IN) Do we look like rustlers?

21.

22.

23.

24.

25.

JESS. I thought you'd be gone by now. From the way you was walkin' along there, kinda bent over, it looked to me like you was tryin' to keep outta sight. Couldn't tell whether you was Lew Grady or not. But I wasn't gonna waste time askin' questions -- Well, Jim -- didja find them poison plants you was tellin' me about?

JIM: -- No, Jess, I didn't

JESS: That's what I figgered. So I come out to stay the night in this draw here, thinkin' maybe I'd run onto somethin'. Maybe it won't ---

JIM: Wait a minute, Jess -- By George, you have run onto something

JESS: What?

JIM: Look here on the ground

JERRY: What is it, Jim?

JIM: All around us here. Look

JERRY: It's laurel, isn't it, Jim?

JIM: That's what it is, all right. (FADING SLIGHTLY) I'll break off a piece so we can see what it looks like.

CRACK OF TWIG

JESS. What's he talkin' about?

1 JESS: (FADING IN) See that Jess? We usually call it laurel
2 in this country. It's really bog Kalmia. Only grows a
3 few inches high. You wouldn't think it'd do any harm.
4 But if your sheep didn't have anything else to graze on,
5 and got into this stuff they'd be bound to eat some of it
6 and die of poisoning. There's several plants of this
7 same species that are poison to stock.

8 JESS: That stuff? I think there's more of it in the draws down
9 the valley. I remember seein' it now, but I didn't --

10 JIM: Your sheep have been grazing here in this place within the
11 last day or two. All the tracks look pretty fresh.

12 JESS: They been grazin' along here most of the week.

13 JIM: Then that's what killed 'em Jess -- the laurel that's grown
14 up in these wet draws.

15 JESS: I know some laurel's poison, but --

16 JIM: Your sheep wouldn't have eaten it if there'd been anything
17 else left on the range for 'em to feed on. I been tryin'
18 to tell you that you couldn't get away with overgrazing
19 your range, that you'd have to pay for it some time. Why,
20 doggone it, Jess, this range is your capital, and your sheep
21 are an investment. But you've been cheating yourself out of
22 your own capital and killing off your business. Forty years
23 ago -- when they had range wars out here -- some times one man
24 killed off another's stock to settle a grudge. But you've
25 been killing off your own sheep.

1. JESS. — Yeah — Kinds looks that way, don't it — Jim —
2. could you suggest any way outa this?
3. JIM: The only thing I can do, Jess, is to help you work out
4. a rotation grazing plan, so as to give the worst parts
5. of your range a chance to recover. It'll take quite a
6. while to bring it back. But in the meantime I reckon
7. you'll want to make peace with Lew Gedy.
8. JESS: I reckon I do, Jim. — Jim I'm mighty grateful to you
9. for keeping me from doing something I'd been sorry for.
10. MUSIC UP AND OUT
11. ANNOUNCER. Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers come to you every Friday on the
12. Farm and Home Hour as a presentation of the National
13. Broadcasting Company with the cooperation of the United
14. States Forest Service.
15.
16. wh-gm
17. 10:00
18. 5/11/39
19.
20.
21.
22.
23.
24.

